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G. W. Miller,

EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

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EXECUTED WITH neatness AND DISPATCH.

GOOD NATURE AND PATIENCE.

This is a world of ups and downs, of crossness and contradictions. Every day turns up something to disturb the equanimity of one's temper. But it is worse than useless to fret. Fretting is like a caustic applied to a sore. It inflames but never cures. A fretful spirit is never happy; and it drives happiness from all other spirits with which it comes in contact. We say, then, if the world goes wrong, and it does that pretty often, don't fret. If a man clients, and then laughs at you for a veritable one, make the best of it, and keep cool. If you break your leg, or find your favorite seat at the Lyceum occupied; if the stage upsets, or the cars leave you behind; if the cook spoils your dinner, or the thick-headed servant delivers an important message; if the dear image of its beautiful mother repays your caresses by thrusting its tiny fingers into your plate of soup and wiping them on your snow-white shirt bosom; if banks fail and States repudiate, keep your temper. Repeat the alphabet, read the one-hundred and nineteenth psalm, do say anything "lovely and of good report," but as you value quietness of mind and good temper of others, don't fret. It is marvellous how much good nature and patience will do towards curing the ills to which flesh and spirit are heirs.

ELECTION BETTING.

The Philadelphia Spirit of the Times remarks that not less than six millions of dollars are said to have changed hands in the State of New York on bets on the election of Mr. Clay. The Boston Times adds, that the amount lost and won in that city is "beyond computation." One gentleman it says has lost \$70,000, and many others are totally ruined. In Kentucky the losses of the Whigs have been very severe. Being at the central point to which converged all the most flattering accounts that the sanguine hopes of one-sided partisanship could write from all parts of the country, there is no place at which the friends of Mr. Clay have been more blindly confident. The truth is, that the gambling spirit is a marked feature in our national character, nurtured as it has been by the fatal paper-money credit system, which has kept all values in a perpetual state of fluctuation, and multiplied the ordinary hazards incident to all business enterprise. Acted upon by the universal excitement of interest felt in the Presidential election, it was no wonder that this cause has led to an enormous amount of betting, spread over all classes of society. It is an evil much more easy to regret than to remedy. [N. Y. Morning News.]

SAFETY IN THUNDER STORMS.—People are often led to inquire what are the best means of safety during a thunder storm. If out of doors, we should avoid trees and elevated objects of every kind, and if the flash is instantly followed by the report, which indicates that the cloud is very near, a recumbent position is considered the safest. We should avoid rivers, ponds, and all streams of water, because water is a conductor, and persons on the water in a boat, would be most prominent objects, and therefore most likely to be struck by the lightning. If we are within doors, the middle of a large carpeted floor will be tolerably safe. We should avoid the chimney; for the iron about the grate, the vent that often lines it, and the heated and clarified air it contains, are tolerable conductors, and should, on that account, be avoided. It is never safe to sit near an open window, because a draught of wind air is a good conductor; hence we should close the windows on such occasions. In bed we are comparatively safe, for the feathers and blankets are bad conductors, and we are to a great extent insured in such a situation.

THE PLACE OF THE NATIVITY.—Perhaps, says Wilson in his work upon Judea, there is not one spot on the face of the globe that is more deeply interesting to Christians than the village of Bethlehem. It extends east and west, standing on a hill six miles from the city of Jerusalem, and in which the most remarkable events had occurred, according to those minute descriptions given in the Record of Inspiration; but, above all, none more striking than that being the place giving birth to the infant Jesus, who was the Prophet of the Highest, and came forth to give light to those who sit in darkness. There is one large monastery of Franciscan monks on a commanding height, looking down on a charming valley which calls to mind that ever memorable moment when the shepherds, who were watching their flocks, heard the heavenly choir, and saw the star with unclouded joy, which had led the Magi, or wise men of the East, to the place of the Nativity. In the magnificent church within this monastery is a chapel under ground, finely ornamented, where fifty massive lamps of silver are suspended, and kept constantly burning. Here is pointed out in the form of a star in marble, the place where he came forth, who was declared to be Wonderful, the Mighty Counsellor, the Everlasting Father, and Prince of Peace.

"Are you prepared to settle?" as the coffee said to the negro.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

To the Senate and House of

Representatives of the United States:

We have continued cause for expressing our gratitude to the Supreme Ruler of the Universe for the benefits and blessings which our country, under his kind Providence, has enjoyed during the past year. Notwithstanding the exciting scenes through which we have passed, nothing has occurred to disturb the general peace, or to derange the harmony of our political system. The great moral spectacle has been exhibited of a nation, approximating in number to 20,000,000 of people, having performed the high and important functions of electing their Chief Magistrate for the term of four years, without the commission of any acts of violence, or the manifestation of spirit of insubordination to the laws. The great and inestimable right of suffrage, has been exercised by all who were invested with it, under the laws of the different States; in a spirit dictated alone by a desire, in the selection of the agent, to advance the interests of the country, and to place beyond jeopardy the institutions under which it is our happiness to live. That the deepest interest has been manifested by all our countrymen in the result of the election, is not less true, than highly creditable to them. Vast multitudes have assembled, from time to time, at various places, for the purpose of canvassing the merits and pretensions of those who were presented for their suffrage; but no armed soldiery has been necessary to restrain, within proper limits, the popular zeal, or to prevent violent outbreaks. A principle much more controlling was found in the love of order and obedience to the laws, which, with mere individual exceptions, every where possesses the American mind. Controls with an influence far more powerful than hosts of armed men. We cannot dwell upon this picture without recognising in it that deep and devoted attachment on the part of the People, to the institutions under which we live, which proclaims their perpetuity. The great objection, which has always prevailed against the election, by the People, of their Chief Executive officer, has been the apprehension of tumults and disorders, which might involve in ruin the entire Government. A security against this is found not only in the fact before alluded to, but in the additional fact that, we live under a confederacy embracing already twenty six States; no one of which has power to control the election. The popular vote in each State is taken at the time appointed by the laws, and such vote is announced by its Electoral College, without reference to the decision of the other States. The right of suffrage, and the mode of conducting the election, is regulated by the laws of each State; and the election is distinctly federative in all prominent features. Thus it is that, unlike what might be the results under a consolidated system, riotous proceedings, should they prevail, could only affect the elections in single States, without disturbing to any dangerous extent, the tranquillity of others. The great experiment of a political confederacy—each member of which is supreme—as to all matters appertaining to its local interests, and its internal peace and happiness;—while by a voluntary compact with others, it confides to the united power of all, the protection of its citizens, in matters not domestic—has been so far crowned with complete success. The world has witnessed its rapid growth in wealth and population; and under the guide and direction of a superintending Providence, the developments of the past may be regarded but as the shadowing forth of the mighty future. In the bright prospects of that future, we shall find, as patriots and philanthropists, the highest inducements to cultivate and cherish a love of union, and to frown down every measure or the effort which may be made, to alienate the States, or the People of the States, in sentiment and feeling, from each other. A rigid and close adherence to the terms of our political compact, and, above all, a sacred observance of the guarantees of the Constitution, will preserve union on a foundation which cannot be shaken; while personal liberty is placed beyond hazard of jeopardy. The guarantee of religious freedom, of the freedom of the press, of the liberty of speech, of trial by jury, of the habeas corpus, and of the domestic institutions of each of the States—leaving the private citizen in the full exercise of the high and ennobling attributes of his nature, and to each State the privilege, which can only be judiciously exerted by itself, of cultivating the means best calculated to advance its own happiness;—these are the great and important guarantees of the Constitution, and the advocates of liberty must cherish, and the advocates of union must ever cultivate. Preserving these, and avoiding all interpretations by forced constructions, under the guise of an imagined expediency, upon the Constitution, the influence of our political system is destined to be as actively and as beneficially felt on the distant shores of the Pacific, as it is now on those of the Atlantic Ocean. The only formidable impediments in the way of its successful expansion (time and space) are so far in the progress of modification, by the improvements of the age, as to render no longer speculative the ability of Representatives from that remote region to come up to the Capitol, so that their constituents shall participate in all the benefits of Federal legislation. Thus it is that, in the progress of time, the inestimable principles of civil liberty will be enjoyed by millions yet unborn, and the great benefits of our system of Government be extended to now distant and uninhabited regions. In view of the vast wilderness yet to be reclaimed, we may well invite the lover of freedom, of every land, to take up his abode among us, and assist us in the great work of advancing the standard of civilization, and

give a wider spread to the arts and refinements of cultivated life. Our prayers should evermore be offered up to the Father of the Universe for his wisdom to direct us in the path of our duty, so as to enable us to consummate these high purposes.

One of the strongest objections which has been urged against confederacies, by writers on Government, is, the liability of the members to be tampered with by foreign Governments, or the People of foreign States, either in their local affairs, or in such as affected the peace of others, or endangered the safety of the whole Confederacy. We cannot hope to entirely exempt from such attempts on our peace and safety. The United States are becoming too important in population and resources not to attract the observation of other nations. It, therefore, may, in the progress of time, occur that opinions entirely abstract in the States in which they may prevail, in no degree affecting their domestic institutions, may be artfully, but secretly, encouraged with a view to undermine the Union. Such opinions may become the foundation of political parties, until at last, the conflict of opinion, producing an alienation of friendly feeling among the People of the different States, may involve in one general destruction the happy institutions under which we live. It should ever be borne in mind that what is true in regard to individuals, is equally so in regard to States. An interference of one in the affairs of another, is the fruitful source of family dissensions and neighborhood disputes; and the same cause affects the peace, happiness and prosperity of States. It may be most devoutly hoped that the good sense of the American People will ever be ready to repel all such attempts, should they ever be made.

There has been no material change in our foreign relations since my last Annual Message to Congress. With all the Powers of Europe we continue on the most friendly terms. Indeed, it affords me much satisfaction to state, that at no former period has the peace of that enlightened and important quarter of the globe ever been, apparently, more firmly established. The conviction that peace is the true policy of nations, would seem to be growing & becoming deeper amongst the enlightened every where; and there is no people who have a stronger interest in cherishing the sentiments, and adopting the means of preserving and giving it permanence, than those of the United States. Amongst these, the first and most effective are, no doubt, the strict observance of justice, and the honest and punctual fulfilment of all engagements. But it is not to be forgotten that, in the present state of the world, it is no less necessary to be ready to enforce their observance and fulfilment, in reference to ourselves, than to observe and fulfil them on our part, in regard to others.

Since the close of your last session, a negotiation has been formally entered upon between the Secretary of State and Her Britannic Majesty's Minister Plenipotentiary and Envoy Extraordinary residing at Washington, relative to the rights of their respective nations in and over the Oregon territory. That negotiation is still pending. Should it, during your session, be brought to a definite conclusion, the result will be promptly communicated to Congress. I would, however, again call your attention to the recommendations contained in previous messages, designed to protect and facilitate emigration to that Territory. The establishment of military posts at suitable points upon the extended line of land travel would enable our citizens to migrate in comparative safety to the fertile regions below the falls of the Columbia, and make the provision of the existing convention for the joint occupation of the Territory by subjects of Great Britain, and the citizens of the United States, more available than heretofore to the latter. These posts would constitute places of rest for the weary emigrant, where he would be sheltered securely against the danger of attack from the Indians, and be enabled to recover from the exhaustion of a long line of travel. Legislative enactments should also be made which should spread over him the wings of our laws, so as to afford protection to his person and property when he shall have reached his distant home. In this latter respect, the British Government has been much more careful of the interests of such of her people as are to be found in that country, than the United States. She has made necessary provision for their security and protection against the acts of the viciously disposed and lawless; and her emigrant reposes in safety under the canopy of her laws. Whatever may be the result of the pending negotiation, such measures are necessary. It will afford me the greatest pleasure to witness a happy and favorable termination to the existing negotiation, upon terms compatible with the public honor; and the best efforts of the Government will continue to be directed to this end.

It would have given me the highest gratification, in this, my last annual communication to Congress, to have been able to announce to you the complete and entire settlement and adjustment of other matters in difference between the United States and the Government of Her Britannic Majesty. It was so obviously the interest of both countries, in respect to the large and valuable commerce which exists between them, that all causes of complaint, however inconsiderable, should be, with the greatest promptitude, removed;—that it must be regarded as cause of regret, that any unnecessary delays should be permitted to intervene. It is true that, in a pecuniary point of view, the matters alluded to, are, altogether insignificant to amount, when compared with the ample resources of that great nation; but they, nevertheless, more particularly that hunted class which arise under seizures and detentions of American ships on the coast of Africa, upon the

mistaken supposition indulged in at the time the wrong was committed, of their being engaged in the slave-trade,—deeply affect the sensibilities of this Government and People. Great Britain having recognized her responsibility to repair all such wrongs, by her action in other cases, leaves nothing to be regretted upon the subject, as to all cases prior to the Treaty of Washington, than the delay in making suitable reparation in such of them as fall plainly within the principle of equity, which she has long since adjusted. The injury inflicted by delays in the settlement of these claims, falls with severity upon the individual claimants, and makes a strong appeal to her magnanimity and sense of justice for a speedy settlement of existing treaties, also remain unadjusted, and will continue to be urged upon her attention.

The labors of the joint commission appointed by the two Governments to run the dividing line, established by the Treaty of Washington, were, unfortunately, much delayed in the commencement of the season, by the failure of Congress, at its last session, to make a timely appropriation of funds to meet the expenses of the American party, and by other causes. The United States Commissioner, however, expresses his expectation that, by increased diligence and energy, the party will be able to make up for lost time.

We continue to receive assurances of the most friendly feelings on the part of all the other European powers; with each, and all of whom, it is so obviously our interest to cultivate the most amicable relations. Russia, the great northern power, under the judicious sway of her Emperor, is constantly advancing in the road of science and improvement; while France, guided by the councils of her wise sovereign, pursues a course calculated to consolidate the general peace. Spain has obtained a breathing spell of some duration from the internal convulsions which have, through so many years, marred her prosperity; while Austria, the Netherlands, Prussia, Belgium, and the other powers of Europe, reap a rich harvest of blessings from the prevailing peace.

I informed the two Houses of Congress in my message of December last, that instructions had been given to Mr. Wheaton, our Minister at Berlin, to negotiate a treaty with the German States composing the Zoll Verein, if it could be done—stipulating, as far as practicable, to accomplish it, for a reduction of the heavy and onerous duties levied on our tobacco, and other leading articles of agricultural production; and yielding, in return, on our part a reduction of duties on such articles, the production of their industry, as should not come into competition, or but a limited one, with articles the product of our manufacturing industry. The Executive, in giving such instructions, considered itself as acting in strict conformity with the wishes of Congress, as made known through several measures which it had adopted; all directed to this important result. The treaty was, therefore, negotiated; by which essential reductions were secured in duties levied by the Zoll Verein, on tobacco, rice and bird, accompanied by a stipulation for the admission of raw cotton, free of duty. In exchange for which highly important concessions, a reduction of duties, imposed by the laws of the United States on a variety of articles, most of which were admitted free of duty under the act of Congress commonly known as the compromise law, and but few of which, were produced in the United States, was stipulated on our part. This treaty was communicated to the Senate at an early day of its last session, but not acted upon until near its close; when, for a want, as I am bound to presume, of full time to consider it, it was laid upon the table. This procedure had the effect of virtually rejecting it, in consequence of a stipulation contained in the treaty that its ratification should be exchanged on or before a day which has already passed. The Executive, acting upon the fair inference that the Senate did not intend its absolute rejection, gave instructions to our Minister at Berlin to re-open the negotiation, so far as to obtain an extension of time for the exchange of ratifications. I regret however, to say that his efforts, in this respect, have been unsuccessful. I am, nevertheless, not without hope that, the great advantages which were intended to be secured by the treaty, may yet be realized.

I am happy to inform you that, Belgium has, by an "arrêté royal," issued in July last, assigned the flag of the United States to her own, so far as the direct trade between the two countries is concerned. This measure will prove of great service to our shipping interest; the trade having, heretofore, been carried on chiefly in foreign bottoms. I flatter myself that she will speedily resort to a modification of her system, relating to the tobacco trade, which would be mutually beneficial to the agriculture of the United States, and open the way to the mutual advantage of both countries.

No definitive intelligence has yet been received from our Minister, of the conclusion of a Treaty with the Chinese Empire; but enough is known to induce the strongest hopes that, the mission will be crowned with success.

With Brazil our relations continue on the most friendly footing. The commercial intercourse between that growing Empire and the United States, is becoming daily of greater im-

portance to both; and it is the interest of both that, that the firmest relations of amity and good will should continue to be cultivated between them.

The Republic of New Grenada still withholds, notwithstanding the most persevering efforts have been employed by our Charge d'Affaires, Mr. Blackford, to produce a different result—indemnity in the case of the brig "Morris." And the Congress of Venezuela, although an arrangement has been effected between our Minister and the Minister of foreign affairs of that government, for the payment of \$15,000, in the same case—has altogether neglected to make provision for its payment. It is to be hoped that a sense of duty will soon induce a settlement of these claims.

Our late Minister to Chili, Mr. Pendleton, has returned to the United States without having effected an adjustment in the second claim of the Macedonian, which is delayed on grounds altogether frivolous and untenable. Mr. Pendleton's successor has been directed to urge the claim in the strongest terms; and, in the event of a failure to obtain a permanent adjustment, to report the fact to the Executive at as early a day as possible, so that the whole matter may be communicated to Congress.

At your last session, I submitted, to the attention of Congress, the Convention with the Republic of Peru of the 17th of March, 1841, providing for the adjustment of the claims of citizens of the United States against that Republic; but no definitive action was taken upon the subject. I again invite to your attention and prompt action.

In my last annual Message, I felt it to be my duty to make known to Congress, in terms both plain and emphatic, my opinion in regard to the war which has long existed between Mexico and Texas; which, since the battle of San Jacinto, has consisted altogether of predatory incursions, attended by circumstances revolting to humanity. I repeat now, what I then said, that after eight years of feeble and ineffectual efforts to recover Texas, it was time that the war should have ceased. The United States had a direct interest in the question. The contiguity of the two nations to our territory was but too well calculated to involve our peace. Urgent suspicions were engendered in the mind of one or the other of the belligerents against us; and, as a necessary consequence, American interests were made to suffer, and our peace became daily endangered. In addition to which, it most have been obvious to all that the exhaustion produced by the war, subjected both Mexico and Texas to the interference of other powers; which, without the interposition of this Government, might eventuate in the most serious injury to the United States. This Government, from time to time, exerted its friendly offices to bring about a termination of hostilities upon terms honorable alike to both the belligerents. Its efforts in this behalf proved unavailing. Mexico seemed, almost without an object, to persevere in the war, and no other alternative was left the Executive but to take advantage of the well known dispositions of Texas, and to invite her to enter into a treaty for annexing her territory to that of the United States.

Since your last session, Mexico has threatened to renew the war, and has either made, or proposed to make, formidable preparations for invading Texas. She has issued decrees and proclamations preparatory to the commencement of hostilities, full of threats, revolting to humanity;—and which, if carried into effect, would arouse the attention of all Christendom. This new demonstration of feeling, there is too much reason to believe, has been produced in consequence of the negotiation of the late treaty of annexation with Texas. The Executive, therefore, could not be indifferent to such proceedings; and it felt it to be due, as well to itself, as to the honor of the country, that a strong representation should be made to the Mexican Government upon the subject. This was accordingly done; as will be seen by the copy of the accompanying despatch from the Secretary of State to the United States Envoy at Mexico. Mexico has no right to jeopard the peace of the world by arguing any longer, a useless and fruitless contest. Such a condition of things would not be tolerated on the European continent. Why should it be on this? A war, cannot be waged without involving our peace and tranquillity. It is idle to believe that such a war could be looked upon with indifference by our own citizens, inhabiting adjoining States;—and our neutrality would be violated, in despite of all efforts on the part of the Government to prevent it. The country is settled by emigrants from the United States, under invitations held out to them by Spain and Mexico. Those emigrants have left behind them friends and relatives who would not fail to sympathize with them in their difficulties, and who would be led by those sympathies to participate in their struggles, however energetic the action of the Government to prevent it. Nor would the numerous and formidable hordes of Indians, the most warlike to be found in any land, which occupy the extensive regions contiguous to the States of Arkansas and Missouri, and who are in possession of large tracts of country within the limits of Texas, be likely to remain passive. The inclinations of numerous tribes lead them invariably to war when their interests are concerned.

Mexico had no just ground of displeasure or moment of People for negotiating

the treaty. What interest of hers was affected by the treaty? She was dispossessed of nothing, since Texas was forever lost to her. The independence of Texas was recognised by several of the leading powers of the earth. She was free to treat—free to adopt her own line of policy—free to take the course which she believed was best calculated to secure her happiness. Her Government and People decided on annexation to the United States; and the Executive saw, in the acquisition of such a territory, the means of advancing their permanent happiness and glory. What principle of good faith then was violated? What rule of political morals was trampled under foot? So far as Mexico herself was concerned, the measure should have been regarded by her as highly beneficial. Her inability to reconquer Texas had been exhibited, I repeat, by eight—now nine—years of fruitless and ruinous contest. In the meantime, Texas has been growing in population and resources. Emigration has flowed into her territory from all parts of the world, in a current which continues to increase in strength. Mexico requires a permanent boundary between that young republic and herself. Texas, at no distant day, if she continues separate and detached from the United States, will inevitably seek to consolidate her strength by adding to her domain the contiguous provinces of Mexico. The spirit of revolt from the control of the Central Government has, heretofore, manifested itself in some of those provinces; and it is fair to infer that they would be inclined to take the first favorable opportunity to proclaim their independence, and to form close alliances with Texas. The war would thus be endless; or, if cessations of hostilities should occur, they would only endure for a season. The interests of Mexico, therefore, could in nothing be better consulted than in a peace with her neighbors, which would result in the establishment of a permanent boundary. Upon the ratification of the treaty, the Executive was prepared to treat with her on the most liberal basis. Hence the boundaries of Texas were left undefined by the treaty. The Executive proposed to settle these upon terms that all the world should have pronounced just and reasonable. No negotiation upon that point could have been undertaken between the United States and Mexico, in advance of the ratification of the treaty. We should have had no right—no power—no authority, to conducted such a negotiation; and to have undertaken it, would have been an assumption equally revolting to the pride of Mexico and Texas, and subjecting us to the charge of arrogance: while to have proposed in advance of annexation to satisfy Mexico for any contingent interest she might have in Texas, would have been to have treated Texas, not as an independent power, but as a mere dependency of Mexico. The assumption could not have been acted on by the Executive, without setting at defiance your own solemn declaration that that Republic was an independent State. Mexico had, it is true, threatened war against the United States, in the event the Treaty of Annexation was ratified. The Executive could not permit itself to be influenced by this threat. It represented in this, the spirit of our People, who are ready to sacrifice much for peace, but nothing to intimidation. A war, under any circumstances, is greatly to be deplored, and the United States is the last nation to desire it; but if, as the condition of peace, it is required of us to forego the unquestionable right of treating with an independent power, of our own Continent, upon matters highly interesting to both and that upon a naked and unsustained pretension of claim by a third power, to control the free-will of the power with whom we treat—devoted as we may be to peace, and anxious to cultivate friendly relations with the whole world, the Executive does not hesitate to say that, the People of the United States would be ready to brave all consequences, sooner than submit to such condition. But no apprehension of war was entertained by the Executive; and I must express frankly the opinion that, had the Treaty been ratified by the Senate, it would have been followed by a prompt settlement, to the entire satisfaction of Mexico, of every matter in difference between the two countries. Seeing then that new preparations for hostile invasion of Texas were about to be adopted by Mexico, and that these were brought about because Texas adopted the suggestions of the Executive upon the subject of Annexation, it could not passively have folded its arms and permitted a war, threatened to be accompanied by every act that could mark a barbarous age, to be waged against her, because she had done so.

Other considerations of a controlling character influenced the course of the Executive. The treaty which had thus been negotiated had failed to receive the ratification of the Senate. One of the chief objections which was urged against it, was found to consist in the fact, that the question of annexation had not been submitted to the ordeal of public opinion in the United States. However untenable such an objection was esteemed to be, in view of the unquestionable power of the Executive to negotiate the treaty, and the great and lasting interests involved in the question, I felt it to be my duty to submit the whole matter to Congress as the best exponents of popular sentiment. No definitive action having been taken on the subject by Congress, the question referred itself directly to the decision of the States and the People. The great popular election which has just terminated, afforded the best opportunity of ascertaining the will of the States, and the People upon it. Pending that issue, it became the imperative duty of the Executive to inform Mexico that the question of annexation was still before the American People, and that until their decision was pronounced, any serious invasion of Texas would be regarded as an attempt to forestall their judgment, and could not be looked upon with indifference. I am most happy to inform you, that no such invasion has taken place; and I trust that whatever your action may be upon it, Mexico will see the importance of deciding the matter by a resort to peaceful expedients in preference to those of arms. The decision of the People and the States, on this great and interesting subject, has been decisively manifested. The question of annexation has been presented nakedly to their

consideration. By the treaty itself, all collateral and incidental issues, which were calculated to divide and distract the public councils, were carefully avoided. These were left to the wisdom of the future to determine. It presented, I repeat, the isolated question of annexation and in that form it has been submitted to the ordeal of public sentiment. A controlling majority of the People and a large majority of the States, have declared in favor of immediate annexation. Instructions have thus come up to both branches of Congress, from their respective constituents, in terms the most emphatic. It is the will of both the people and the States, that Texas shall be annexed to the Union promptly and immediately. It may be hoped that, in carrying into execution the public will, thus declared, all collateral issues may be avoided. Future Legislatures can best decide as to the number of States which should be formed out of the territory, when the time has arrived, for deciding that question. So with all others. By the treaty, the United States assumed the payment of the debts of Texas, to an amount not exceeding \$10,000,000, to be paid, with the exception of a sum falling short of \$400,000 exclusively out of the proceeds of the sales of her public lands. We could not, with honor, take the lands, without assuming the full payment of all incumbrances upon them.

Nothing has occurred since your last session to induce a doubt that the dispositions of Texas remains unaltered. No intimation of an altered determination, on the part of her Government and People, has been furnished to the Executive. She still desires to throw herself under the protection of our laws, and to partake of the blessings of our federative system; while every American interest would seem to require it. The extension of our coast-wise and foreign trade, to an amount almost incalculable—the enlargement of the market for our manufactures—a constantly growing market for our agricultural productions—safety to our frontiers, and additional strength and stability to the Union—these are the results which would rapidly develop themselves, upon the consummation of the measure of annexation. In such event, I will not doubt but that Mexico would find her true interest to consist in meeting the advances of this Government in a spirit of amity.

Nor do I apprehend any serious complaint from any other quarter; no sufficient ground exists for such complaint. We should interfere in no respect with the rights of any other nation. There cannot be gathered from the act, any design on our part to do so with their possessions on this Continent. We have interposed no impediments in the way of such acquisitions of territory, large and extensive as many of them are, as the leading powers of Europe have made, from time to time, in every part of the world. We seek no conquests made by war. No intrigue will have been resorted to, or acts of diplomacy essayed to accomplish the annexation of Texas. Free and independent herself, she asks to be received into our Union. It is a question for our own decision whether she shall be received or not.

The two Governments having already agreed, through their respective organs, on the terms of annexation, I would recommend their adoption by Congress in the form of a joint resolution, or act, to be perfected and made binding on the two countries, when adopted, in like manner by the Government of Texas.

In order that the subject may be fully presented in all its bearings, the correspondence which has taken place, in reference to it, since the adjournment of Congress, between the United States, Texas, and Mexico is herewith transmitted.

The amendments proposed by the Senate to the Convention concluded between the United States and Mexico on the 20th of November, 1843, have been transmitted through our Minister, for the concurrence of the Mexican Government; but, although urged thereto, no action has yet been had on the subject, nor has any answer been given which would authorize a favorable conclusion in the future.

The Decree of September, 1843, in relation to the retail trade, the order for the expulsion of foreigners and that of a more recent date in regard to passports—all of which are considered as in violation of the Treaty of Amity and Commerce between the two countries, have led to a correspondence of considerable length between the Minister for Foreign Relations and our Representative at Mexico, but without any satisfactory result. They remain still undisturbed, and many and serious inconveniences have already resulted to our citizens in consequence of them.

Questions growing out of the act of disarming a body of Texian troops under the command of Major Snively, by an officer in the service of the United States, acting under the orders of our Government; and the forcible entry into the custom-house at Brary's Landing on Red River, by certain citizens of the United States, and taking away therefrom the goods seized by the Collector of the Customs, as forfeited under the laws of Texas, have been adjusted; so far as the powers of the Executive extend. The correspondence between the two Governments in reference to both subjects, will be found amongst the accompanying documents. It contains a full statement of all the facts and circumstances, with the views taken on both sides, and the principles upon which the questions have been adjusted. It remains for Congress to make the necessary appropriation to carry the arrangement into effect, which I respectfully recommend.

The greatly improved condition of the Treasury, affords a subject for general congratulation. The paralysis which had fallen on trade and commerce, and which subjected the Government to the necessity of resorting to loans, and the issue of Treasury notes, to a large amount, has passed away; and, after the payment of upwards of \$7,000,000 on account of the interest, and in redemption of more than \$5,000,000 of the public debt, which falls due on the 1st of January next, and setting apart upwards of \$2,000,000 for the payment of outstanding Treasury notes, and meeting an in-

stallment of the debts of the corporate cities of the District of Columbia—an estimated surplus of upwards of \$7,000,000, over and above the existing appropriations, will remain in the Treasury at the close of the fiscal year. Should the Treasury notes continue outstanding, as heretofore, that surplus will be considerably augmented. Although all interest has ceased upon them, and the Government has invited their return to the Treasury, yet they remain outstanding; affording great facilities to commerce, and establishing the fact that, under a well regulated system of finance, the Government has resources within itself, which render it independent in time of need, not only of private loans, but also of bank facilities.

The only remaining subject of regret is, that the remaining stocks of the Government do not fall due at an earlier day; since their redemption would be entirely within its control. As it is, it may be well worthy the consideration of Congress, whether the law establishing the sinking fund—under the operation of which the debts of the Revolution and last war with Great Britain were, to a great extent, extinguished—should not, with proper modifications, (so as to prevent an accumulation of surpluses, and limit in amount to a specific sum,) be re-enacted. Such provision, which would authorize the government to go into the market for a purchase of its own stock, on fair terms, would serve to maintain its credit at the highest point, and prevent, to a great extent, those fluctuations in the price of its securities; which might, under other circumstances, affect its credit. No apprehension of this sort is, at this moment, entertained; since the stocks of the Government which but two years ago were offered for sale to capitalists, at home and abroad, at a depreciation, and could find no purchasers, are now greatly above par in the hands of the holders; but a wise and prudent forecast admonishes us to place beyond the reach of contingency the public credit.

It must also be a matter of unmingled gratification, that, under the existing financial system—resting upon the act of 1789, and the resolution of 1816—the currency of the country has attained a state of perfect soundness; and the rules of exchange between different parts of the Union, which, in 1841, denoted by their enormous amount, the current depreciation, and in fact worthlessness of the currency in most of the States—are now reduced to little more than the mere expense of transporting specie from place to place, and the risk incident to the operation. In a new country like that of the United States—where so many inducements are held out for speculation—depositories of the surplus revenue, consisting of Banks of any description, when it reached any considerable amount, require the closest vigilance on the part of the Government. All banking institutions, under whatever denomination they may pass, are governed by an almost exclusive regard to the interest of the stockholders. That interest consists in the augmentation of profits, in the form of dividends, and a large surplus revenue entrusted to their custody is but too apt to lead to excessive loans and to extravagantly large issues of paper. As a necessary consequence, prices are nominally increased, and the speculative mania everywhere seizes upon the public mind. A fictitious state of prosperity for a season exists; and, in the language of the day, money becomes plenty—contracts are entered into by individuals, resting on this unsubstantial state of things, but the delusion speedily passes away, and the country is overran with an indebtedness so weighty as to overwhelm many, and to visit every department of industry with great and ruinous embarrassment. The greatest vigilance becomes necessary on the part of Government to guard against this state of things. The depositories must be given distinctly to understand that the favors of the Government will be altogether withdrawn, or substantially diminished, if its revenues shall be regarded as additions to their banking capital, or as the foundation of an enlarged circulation. The Government, through its revenue has, at all times, an important part to perform in connexion with the currency, and it greatly depends upon its vigilance and care, whether the country be involved in embarrassments similar to those which it has had recently to encounter; or, aided by the action of the Treasury, shall be preserved in a sound and healthy condition.

The dangers to be guarded against are greatly augmented by too large a surplus of revenue. When that surplus greatly exceeds in amount what shall be required by a wise and prudent forecast to meet unforeseen contingencies, the Legislature itself may come to be seized with a disposition to indulge in extravagant appropriations to objects, many of which may—and most probably would—be found to conflict with the Constitution. A fancied expediency is elevated above constitutional authority; and a reckless and wasteful extravagance but too certainly follows. The important power of taxation, which, when exercised in its most restricted form, is a burden on labor and production, is resorted to, under various pretexts for purposes having no affinity to the motives which dictated its grant, and the extravagance of Government stimulates individual extravagance, until the spirit of a wild and ill-regulated speculation, involves one and all in its unfortunate results. In view of such fatal consequences, it may be laid down as an axiom, founded in moral and political truth, that no greater taxes should be imposed than are necessary for an economical administration of the Government; and that whatever exists beyond, should be reduced or modified. This doctrine does in no way conflict with the exercise of sound discrimination in the selection of the articles to be taxed, which a due regard to the public weal would at all times suggest to the Legislature and such selection should always be made with an eye to the great interests of the country. Com-

posed as is the Union of separate and independent States, a patriotic Legislature will not fail in consulting the interests of the parts, to adopt such course as will be best calculated to advance the harmony of the whole; and thus ensure that permanency in the policy of the Government without which all efforts to advance the public prosperity are in vain and fruitless. This great and vitally important task rests with Congress; and the Executive can do no more than recommend the general principles which should govern in its execution.

I refer you to the report of the Secretary of war, for an exhibition of the condition of the army; and recommend to you, as well worthy of your best consideration, many of the suggestions it contains. The Secretary in no degree exaggerates the great importance, of pressing forward without delay, in the work of erecting and finishing the fortifications, to which he particularly alludes. Much has been done towards placing our cities and roadsteads in a state of security against the hazards of hostile attack, within the last four years; but considering the new elements of destruction which have been brought into service, we cannot be too active or vigilant in preparing and perfecting the means of defence. I refer you, also, to his report for a statement of the condition of the Indian tribes within our jurisdiction. The Executive has labored no effort in carrying into effect the well-established policy of the Government, which contemplates a removal of all the tribes residing within the limits of the several States, beyond those limits; and it is now enabled to congratulate the country at the prospect of an early consummation of this object. Many of the tribes have already made great progress in the arts of civilized life; and through the operation of the schools established among them, aided by the efforts of the pious men of various religious denominations—who devote themselves to the task of their improvement—we fondly hope that, the remains of the formerly tribes which were once masters of this country will, in their transition from the savage state, to a condition of refinement and cultivation, and another bright trophy to adorn the labors of a well directed philanthropy.

The accompanying report of the Secretary of the Navy, will explain to you the situation of that branch of the service. The present organization of the Department, imparts to its operations great efficiency; but I conceive fully in the propriety of a division of the Bureau of Construction, Equipment, and Repairs into two Bureaux. The subject, as now arranged, are incongruous, and require, to a certain extent, information and qualifications altogether dissimilar.

The operations of the squadron on the coast of Africa have been conducted with all due attention to the object which led to its organization; and I am happy to say that the officers and crew have enjoyed the best possible health under the system adopted by the officers in command. It is believed the United States is the only nation which has, by its laws, subjected to the punishment of death, as pirates those who may be engaged in the slave-trade. A similar enactment on the part of other nations would not fail to be attended by beneficial result.

In consequence of the difficulties which have existed in the way of securing titles for the necessary grounds operations have not been commenced towards the establishment of the Navy Yard at Memphis. So soon as the title is perfected no further delay will be permitted to intervene. It is well worthy of your consideration whether Congress should not direct the establishment of a rope-walk in connection with the contemplated Navy Yard, as a measure not only of economy but as highly useful and necessary. The only establishment of the sort now connected with the service is located at Boston; and the advantages of a similar establishment, convenient to the hemp-growing region, must be apparent to all.

The report of the Secretary presents other matters to your consideration, of an important character in connection with the service.

In referring you to the accompanying report of the Post Master General, it affords me continued cause of gratification to be able to advert to the fact that, the affairs of the Department, for the last four years, have been so conducted as, from its unaided resources, to meet its large expenditures. On my coming into office a debt of nearly \$500,000 existed against the Department which Congress discharged by an appropriation from the Treasury. The Department, on the 4th of March next, will be found, under the management of its present efficient head, free from debt or embarrassment, which could only have been done by the observance and practice of the greatest vigilance and economy. The laws have contemplated, throughout, that the Department should be self sustained, but it may be necessary, with respect to the public interest, to introduce amendments and alterations in the system. There is a strong desire many quarters, so to alter tariff of letter postage as to reduce the amount of tax at present imposed. Should such a measure be carried into effect, to the full extent desired it cannot well be doubted but that, for the first years of its operation, a diminished revenue would be collected, the supply of which would necessarily constitute a charge upon the Treasury. Whether such a result would be desirable, it will be for Congress in its wisdom to determine. It may in general be asserted, that radical alterations in any system should rather be brought about gradually, than by sudden changes; and by pursuing this prudent policy in the reduction of letter postage, the Department might still sustain itself through the revenue which would accrue by the increase of letters. The state and condition of the public Treasury has, heretofore, been such as to have precluded the recommendation of any material change. The difficulties upon this head have, however, ceased, and a larger discretion is now left to the Government.

I cannot too strongly urge the policy of authorizing the establishment of a line of steamships regularly to ply between this country and foreign ports, and upon our waters, for the transportation of the mail. The example of the British Government is well worthy of imitation in this respect. The belief is strongly entertained, that the emoluments arising from the transportation of mail matter to foreign countries, would operate of itself as an inducement to cause individual enterprise to undertake that branch of the task; and the remuneration of the Government would consist in the addition readily made to our steam navy in the case of emergency by the ships so employed. Should this suggestion meet your approval, the propriety of placing such ships under the command of experienced officers of the navy will not escape your observation. The application of steam to the purposes of naval war-

fare, cogently recommends an extensive steam marine as important in estimating the defenses of the country. Fortunately, this may be attained by us to a great extent without incurring any large amount of expenditure. Steam vessels to be engaged in the transportation of the mails on our principal water courses, lakes and parts of our coast, could also be so constructed as to be efficient as war vessels when needed; and would, of themselves, constitute a formidable force in order to repel attacks from abroad. We cannot be blind to the fact, that other nations have already added large numbers of steam ships to their naval armaments; and that this new and powerful agent is destined to revolutionize the condition of the world. It becomes the United States, therefore, looking to their security, to adopt a similar policy; and the plan suggested will enable them to do so at a small comparative cost.

I take the greatest pleasure in bearing testimony to the zeal and untiring industry which has characterized the conduct of the members of the Executive Cabinet. Each, in his appropriate sphere, has rendered me the most efficient aid in carrying on the government; and it will not, I trust, appear out of place, for me to bear this public testimony. The cardinal objects which should ever be held in view by those entrusted with the administration of public affairs, are, rigidity, and without favor or affection, to interpret the national will, expressed in the laws, as that justice should be done to none,—justice to all. This has been the rule upon which they have acted; and thus, it is believed that few cases, if any, exist, wherein our fellow-citizens who, from time to time, have been drawn to the seat of Government for the settlement of their transactions with the Government, have gone away dissatisfied. Where the testimony has been perfect, and was esteemed satisfactory, their claims have been promptly added; and this in the absence of all favoritism or partiality. The Government which is not just to its own People, can neither claim their affection, nor the respect of the world. At the same time, the closest attention has been paid to those matters which relate more immediately to the great concerns of the country. Order and efficiency in each branch of the public service, have prevailed; accompanied by a system of the most rigid responsibility, on the part of the receiving and disbursing agents. The fact, in illustration of the truth of this remark, deserves to be noticed, that the revenues of the Government, amounting, in the last four years, to upwards of \$120,000,000, have been collected and disbursed, through the numerous Government agents, without the loss, by default, of any amount worthy of serious commentary.

The appropriations made by Congress for the improvement of the rivers of the West, and of the harbors on the lakes, are in the course of judicious expenditure under suitable agents; and are destined, it is to be hoped, to realize all the benefits designed to be accomplished by Congress. I cannot, however, sufficiently impress upon Congress, the great importance of withholding appropriations from improvements which are not ascertained, by previous examination and survey, to be necessary for the shelter and protection of trade from the dangers of storms and tempests. Without this precaution, the expenditures are but too apt to more to the benefit of individuals; without reference to the only consideration which can render them constitutional—the public interest and the general good.

I cannot too earnestly urge upon you the interests of this District, over which, by the Constitution, Congress has exclusive jurisdiction. It would be deeply to be regretted should there be, at any time, ground to complain of neglect on the part of a community which, detached as it is from the parental care of the States of Virginia and Maryland, can only expect aid from Congress, as its local legislature. Amongst the subjects which claim your attention, is the prompt organization of an asylum for the insane, who may be found, from time to time, sojourning within the District. Such course is also demanded by considerations which apply to branches of the public service. For the necessities in this behalf, to invite your particular attention to the report of the Secretary of the Navy.

I have thus, gentlemen of the two Houses of Congress, presented you a true and faithful picture of the condition of public affairs, both foreign and domestic. The wants of the public service are made known to you; and matters of no ordinary importance are urged upon your consideration. Shall I not be permitted to congratulate you on the happy auspices under which you have assembled, and at the important change in the condition of things which has occurred in the last three years? During that period questions with foreign powers, of vital importance to the peace of our country, have been settled and adjusted. A desolating and wasting war with savage tribes, has been brought to a close. The internal tranquillity of the country, threatened by agitating questions, has been preserved. The credit of the Government which has experienced a temporary embarrassment, has been thoroughly restored. Its coffers which, for a season, were empty, have been replenished. A currency, nearly uniform in its value, has taken the place of one depreciated and almost worthless. Commerce and manufactures, which had suffered in common with every other interest, have once more revived; and the whole country exhibits an aspect of prosperity and happiness. Trade and barrier, no longer governed by a wild and speculative mania, rest upon a solid and substantial footing; and the rapid growth of our cities, in every direction, bespeaks most strongly the favorable circumstances by which we are surrounded. My happiness, in the retirement which shortly awaits me, is the ardent hope which I experience, that this state of prosperity is neither deceptive nor destined to be short lived; and that measures which have not yet received its sanction, but which I cannot but regard as closely connected with the honor, the glory, and still more enlarged prosperity of the country, are destined, at an early day, to receive the approval of Congress. Under these circumstances, and with these anticipations, I shall most gladly leave to others, more able than myself, the noble

C. W. WALTON,
ATTORNEY AT LAW
DIXFIELD-PLYMOUTH, MAINE.